

A

REVIEW OF THE Affairs of FRANCE:

With Observations on TRANSACTIONS at Home.

Saturday, June 23, 1705.

AN ill Tongue may do much, they say, and this Paper is bespoke for Conjuring and Raising a Suggestion of a Disappointment of our Armies on the *Moselle*, a Week before we knew any thing of it, viz. in the Review, Numb. 41.

Really, Gentlemen, I am no Prophet, nor the Son of a Prophet, but honestly suggested, the too great Probability of a Miscarriage from Rational Calculation of Forces; and tho' I did not foresee, nor indeed could I Imagine the Germans would bauk their Duty so notoriously; yet when I saw the French Army possessing a Camp 60000 Men Strong, Entrenching and Fortifying a Post, calculated for Subliting the *Maez*, a large Navigable River on their Left, *Thionville*, *Metz*, and the Plentiful Country of *Lorrain* behind them, and all the Plenty of France ready to supply them; on the contrary the Confederates not Numerous enough to Attack them, and a Ruin'd Country to sublitz on; the Forage all Destroy'd, and nothing but remote Magazines for Supply, what could any Body think?

'Tis plain, the French knew their Interest better, than to hazard any thing; their Business was not to Fight, nor could I believe, that tho' the Germans all come up, they could have been Attack'd; it is no Ease thing to force 60000 Men to Fight, whether they will, or no; a Town or two might indeed have been taken, and *Saar-Louis* might have taken up a Month or five Weeks of the Campaign, and haste enough too, considering how the French Defend Towns, and how the Germans Attack them.

When this had been Taken, the Army must have been weaken'd 7 or 8000 Men, besides a Garrison of 4000 Men at least, to be put into it, and consequently they had then been les able to Fight Monsieur *Villars*,

Add to this, that all this while the French under the Duke of Bavaria, must have carried all before them on the *Maez*, and all Spanish *Gelderland* might have run the Risque of being Reduc'd under their Power, in as short Time as it was at first Conquer'd.

I Appeal to all the World, Whether these are not probable Suggestions ; and this Prospect was the Ground of my Supposition, before which, Time has brought to pass ; now give me leave to Suggest yet farther, and I leave the Issue to Providence to account, and Time to discover.

The Publick Accounts Inform us, That the Duke of Marlborough being Disappointed of the Succours, agreed to March from the Upper Rhine, the Camp he is in, being not proper for him to Subsist in his Retreating—— There's all the Measures broken, our Flourish of a Superior Force drop'd, the French left at least Triumphing, tho' not Victorious ; nay, Victorious in one respect, that being before Insulted, as it were, at their Trenches, they will now be left Superior in Force, may have their Turn to insult the Germans, and perhaps give them some Blow, as they have too often done ; and if this should happen, Ware Landau again.

Tis true, the Retreat of the Duke of Marlborough to the Maes, will put a stop to the French Conquests, tho', I doubt, will hardly save the Citadel of Liege ; but no question, he may Check the Duke of Bavaria, and perhaps push him in his Turn, and so alternate Advantages, may now here, now there be obtained ; 'tis hoped we may hold our own, and if the Germans lose by it, they may thank themselves.

But then, Gentlemen, what is all this when it is over, to the mighty Hopes we had rais'd on the approaching Glories of this Campaign ; those Gentlemen who had run away with the French King a Horseback, as it were, must be forc'd to bring him back at last, and leave him just where they found him.

All this is prolonging the War, one Campaign ends, and another begins, and the Pangs and Travail of Europe, after Peace, are like those of a Lingring Travail to a Woman in Child-Birth, Pains without Profit ; the Birth is not advanc'd, yet the Strength is diminish'd.

And what is the Reason of all these Disappointments ? We may cry out, The Germans have Betray'd us, the Germans are Unprovided, and cannot be Ready, and we

are Bought and Sold ; but let us look at Home, Gentlemen, is not the Spring of all this in our selves ? Heaven sees not fit yet to trust us with Peace, we are not qualified to receive it, because we are not qualified to reap the Fruits of it ; How can we expect Peace Abroad, when 'tis plain, as soon as ever we had but a Prospect of it, as soon as by the Victory of Blenheim we began to think the Danger from Abroad was over, we turn'd all the Call, all the Fire, all the ferment'd Blood of the Nation, one against another.

With what Face can Men ask of God Almighty to grant them Peace, when in their Hearts they desire it only to be at Leisure, to tear one another to pieces ?

Peace in this Sence would be Weapons in the Hand of Mad Men, committed to them to Destroy one another ; I cannot foresee any Peace, Heaven will be kinder to us, than to give us any Peace from Abroad, 'till we learn to agree among our selves, for my part, I can neither Wish or Pray for Peace Abroad, without some Hesitation, and at least subjoyning this Petition, That we may be brought to see the Necessity of our own Peace, with one another, as a Preliminary.

God forbid we should have Peace from Abroad, if it must be Improv'd to break our Peace at Home ; if these French Canaanites must remain to quicken as to our own Interest, and to open our Eyes to the Good of our Country, better so, than that Flush'd with the Pride of Victory, we should like Abner's Twelve Young Men of a Side, every one run his Sword into the Bowels of his Neighbour.

Thus Useful are the French to this Nation, that the Awe of their Growing Power, is the only, or at least, the chief Thing that preserves us in any Charity with one another. Parties, are like two Travellers on the Road, who falling out about some Trifle in Discourse, are going together by the Ears in the Dispute, but when a Highway Man comes upon them to Rob, he is consider'd as an Enemy to both, and they freely joyn to oppose him ; and having Beaten him, go on with their old Quarrel again, as before.

The French are our Common Enemies, as English Men and we may a little forget our Animosities and Divisions, when Threatened with their growing Power; but how soon do we Discover, that we shall return to our former Heats, as soon as ever we are at Ease from our Enemies.

And for this very Reason, Heaven, perhaps, does not think us ripe for the Deliverance we seek; and if I must give my Judgment, according to the Course of Humane Affairs, I don't know, how It should.

The Scripture, which says, If you forgive not Men their Trespasses, neither will your Heavenly Father forgive you, seems to prompt this very Direction, and to infer, That if you will not be at Peace one with another, neither shall other Nations be at Peace with you.

If our Armies Retreat from the Enemy, if the Hopes and Measures of the Confederates seem Broken and Disappointed, be it by the Negligence, Backwardness, or whatever other Error of the Confederates, our Business is not to Enquire that here, but sure this Argument will for ever hold good, That from hence it cannot but put us upon Reflecting, that the Enemies Strength however Wounded, is not Broken; that we are not yet perfectly out of Danger of French Tyranny, Foreign Invasion, Eruptions of Poyer, Anti Settlements, and all the Fatal Consequences of the Growing Enemies of this Nation.

I am not here pretending to foretell what shall, or shall not be the Issue of a Doubtful War, but am Arguing the Necessity of our Uniting at Home, because it is Doubtful.

Successes are apt to Puff up, and when Men think themselves secure, they consider not the Consequences of Things, and these sort of Men are generally the most surpriz'd at Events; I would have these Men Reflect on what I once before put them in mind of, viz. How they themselves Preach'd up Peace, Love, Charity, Union, forgetting of former Things, laying aside small Differences, and the like; when in King James's Time they had the Church of Rome upon their Backs.

When they Apprehended, the Dissenters

might from a Frailty Incident to Humane Nature, take the Opportunity, and make use of the Advantages Providence had put into their Hands, to make themselves some Satisfaction for the Prodigious Injustices and Cruel Treatment they had formerly had from those Persecutions, State-Intrigues, and Strange Usages they found from the High Churchmen of those Times.

It was most certainly true, That to Unite, to forget Injuries, to lay aside Quarrels, to remember that we were all Brethren, was the only way to break the Measures, and disappoint the Designs of the Enemies to the Church, who thought their Game sure, and the Event prov'd the Truth of it, for the Discontent, Lift'ning to the General Invitation, and opening their Eyes to their own Safety, fell in with the Church, joyn'd in Interest and Charity with their Church of England Brethren; And what follow'd?

Popery fell before them, as Goliath before the Hand of David. Revolutions, Abdications, and the Fatal Suppression of the Party follow'd — And so it would now, would the Church of England liften to Peace, would the Gentlemen of the Church, submit to the Voice of their own Reason, would they look back to their own Parties, and Practise the Doctrines of their own Brethren; nay, I might say to some of the Warmest of them; "Gentlemen, Would you Revise your own Sermons, and put in Practice the very Peace you persuad'd us to, the Business would be done.

We have been Talking much of the Military Right of keeping the Peace, and some have been so Ridiculous as to Deny it, and to tell a Man, That if a Fire be Broke out in his House, and he cannot Quench it himself, he must not call in the Neighbours to help him, for fear they should Rob his House.

But I am upon a Voluntary way of keeping the Peace, which, let the other be what it will, no Body can Object against; I wish our People would a little consider it, 'tis in all our Power to make a Voluntary Union, and the more Voluntary it is, the more likely to be Durable.

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